Towards modernisation Government has already taken several measures like liberal incentives for setting up in house R&D units, licensing of industries based on indigenous techology, fiscal incentives including incentives for import of certain equipments considered necessary for transfer of technology.

(c) Modernisation will help in better utilisation of available raw materials at lower cost. All-cut efforts are being made for augmenting production of oilseeds by increasing productivity to achieve self-reliance in vegetable oils.

Conversion of Harijans in Meerut, U.P.

1302. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reported conversions of Harijans into Sikhism near Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh on 26th January, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such conversions; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The material is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the table of the House.

Commercial operation by NDDB

1303. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that NDDB is conducting commercial operation such as dairy machinery imports and sales, Consultancy services, sale of Dhara Oil and other products and undertaking contracts, etc. like other public undertakings;

(b) whether NDDB is paying Income Tax and other taxes like other public sector units;

(c) whether NDDB is paying Bonus to all its employees; and

(d) whether NDDB is subject to audit by CAG ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is performing its functions in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the NDDB Act, 1987.

(b) As per the provisions of the NDDB Act, 1987, the NDDB is exempted from the payment of Income Tax. However, NDDB is paying other taxes viz., Sales Tax, Excise Duty etc. as per existing laws.

(c) The question of payment of bonus by NDDB to its employees is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court. The NDDB is paying every year ex-gratia compensation to its eligible employees.

(d) Section 28(1) of the NDDB Act, 1987 provides that the accounts of NDDB shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under the Companies Act.

Audit of Accounts of NDDB

1304. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether accounts of NDDB and erstwhile IDC were being audited by CAG;

(b) whether it is a fact that under new NDDB Act 1987, CAG is not competent to audit A/C's of NDDB handling nearly Rs. 2000 of public funds;

(c) whether Government have been IDCs reports of 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 incorporating comments of CAG; and

(d) whether as per Government procedures all non-official chairman are required to draw token Re. 1/- per month as salary and if so, reasons for dispending with the practice ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) The accounts of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) were audited by qualified auditors approved by the Government. However, the accounts of erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation (IDC) were audited by CAG.

(b) Section 28(1) of the NDDB Act, 1987 provides that the accounts of NDDB shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under the Companies Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Food and Agriculture Organisation code on Pesticides

1305. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 304 in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1987 and state :

(a) whether Government have by now adopted Food and Agriculture Organisation code on Pesticides including the Prior Informed Clause (PIC) in view of its acceptance in principle made at Rome; and

(b) whether the available infrastructure is adequate to implement various provisions of the Code and Insecticides Act and if so, the details thereof indicating weaknesses if any an the proposed remedial steps?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) adopted a resolution, to which India was a party, for the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in its 25th Session held in November, 1989 at Rome.

(b) The main emphasis of the Code is on:

(i) regulation of the manufacture and use of Pesticides in the country;

(ii) establishing mechanism for ensuring the quality of pesticides and safety in the distribution of pesticides;

(iii) regulatory mechanisms for enforcing standards so as to enhance bio-efficacy and reduce health and environmental hazards in the manufacture and trade of pesticides; and

(iv) prescription of labelling, packaging, storage and disposal requirements and restrictions.

These matters are already governed by the provision of Insecticides Act, 1968 and suitable infrastructure for their implementation exists.

Marketing of groundnut oil by NDDB

1306. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB is packing and marketing 1 litre packs of Groundnut Oil @ Rs. 28.50 instead of sale in Kg. packs as required under the law and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what was the price paid to the farmers for this quantity of oil or equivalent of groundnut;

(c) what is the total packing cost per litre indicating royalty paid per pack and cost of foreign component in each tetra pack;

(d) what are the names of parties/ firms handling this product from beginning to end and the profit allowed to them and corrective action taken to protect consumer interest; and

(e) whether private parties are also distributing this product instead of co-operative Sector and if so, the reasons therefor?